

In the Claims:

The claims are as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A tooth and gum cleaning kit for effecting oral cleaning comprising:

a series of two or more tooth and gum cleaning devices having various shaped cleaning end portions able to provide for oral cleaning of infants and toddlers wherein said series of two or more gum cleaning devices are configured to be placed upon a finger tip during cleaning;

a universal handle having a middle and ends, with a smaller diameter at the middle than the ends and configured for self use by a child; and

a plurality of omni-directional cleaning tips made of a flexible material dimensioned and configured for use within a vestibule of ~~older~~ children aged 1-4 years old, the plurality of cleaning tips being detachably securable onto the universal handle so as to form a toothbrush for training children about effecting the oral cleaning , wherein the plurality of cleaning tips vary in size, and wherein larger tips include at least one surface feature.

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein each of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions progress in size from smaller to larger, wherein the at least one surface feature includes grooves.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein at least one of the larger cleaning tips have has multi directional protrusions and progressively more brush-like shapes.

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein each of the cleaning tips are characterized by a 360 degree radially outward ~~omni-directional~~ cleaning surface shape.

Claim 5. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 1 wherein each of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions have a generally oval or elliptical or oblong shape when viewed from a top end of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions.

Claim 6. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 5, wherein each of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions have a partially or completely tapered shape toward the top end when viewed from a front and/or side of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 1 wherein each of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions are made of a resilient ~~material such as~~ foam.

Claim 8. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 7 wherein at least one of the cleaning tips has a generally planar surface or surfaces.

Claim 9. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 7 in which at least one of the cleaning tips has raised ridges on a surface thereof.

Claim 10. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 7 wherein at least one of the cleaning tips has raised, generally cylindrical, conical, or flat sided, simulated bristles.

Claim 11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 6, wherein at least one of the cleaning tips has ~~inner~~ and/or outer surfaces ~~which have~~ having a partially or completely tapered shape toward the top end when viewed from the front and/or side.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 1 in which at least one cleaning tip has a hole in the end of the at least one cleaning tip which would allow a child to breathe through.

Claims 14-15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The kit of claim ~~15~~ 1 wherein the universal handle is substantially oval or elliptical or oblong when viewed from a top or bottom of the universal handle.

Claims 17-20. (Cancelled)

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 1 in which the universal handle has a securing mechanism therein for securing and locking any of the plurality of cleaning tips secured onto the universal handle, wherein the securing mechanism can be unlocked with a cam mechanism by pushing a rod from a bottom of the universal handle.

Claim 22. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 21 in which the universal handle has a deformable button on an outer surface thereof which allows the rod to be pushed axially by a user, the deformable button having sufficient elastic force to return the rod and the securing mechanism to a locked position.

Claim 23. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 13 in which the universal handle has an unrestricted air passage contained therein whereby , when the at least one cleaning tip is secured onto the universal handle, a diameter of the unrestricted air passage in the universal handle corresponds and cooperates substantially to a diameter of the air passage in the top end of the at least one cleaning tip, which would allow a child to breathe through.

Claim 24. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 1, in which the universal handle is filled or partially filled with a fluid or combination of fluids that turn different colors or change phase or appearance during prolonged and/or rigorous agitation.

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 1, in which the universal handle is filled or partially filled with a foaming fluid or two or more non-emulsifying fluids of different colors and densities which mix together during prolonged and/or rigorous agitation and separate again when the agitation stops.

Claim 26. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 25, in which the foaming fluid or two or more non-emulsifying fluids of different colors and densities which fill or partially fill the universal handle are mixed together and combined with one or more agitator objects to increase mixing efficiency.

Claim 27. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 21 in which, when any of the plurality of cleaning tips are to be secured onto or removed from the universal handle, the securing mechanism requires the cleaning tip to be inserted onto the universal handle and removed from the universal handle at an angle relative to a longitudinal center axis of the universal handle.

Claim 28. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 1, whereby non-round final shapes of each of the cleaning tips and the cleaning end portions are manufactured by deformably securing flexible material onto a mandrel which spins around a center axis during material removal.

Claim 29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 29 1, wherein the tooth and gum cleaning devices each further comprise a foam cleaning member which is molded or bonded to a flexible sleeve, the flexible sleeve having an integrated finger loop which, when in use, is placed onto the caregiver's finger to provide the oral cleaning of the infants and toddlers.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 5, wherein, when any of the plurality of cleaning tips are secured onto the universal handle, a toothbrush is formed, the toothbrush having conventional bristles having a radially outward 360 degree bristle pattern with an inner surface shape and/or outer bristle shape which is at least partially non-round when viewed from a top end of the toothbrush.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 5, wherein, when any of the plurality of cleaning tips are secured onto the universal handle, a toothbrush is formed, the toothbrush having conventional bristles having a radially outward 360 degree bristle shape with an inner surface shape and/or outer bristle shape which is at least partially tapered when viewed from a front or side of the toothbrush.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 32, the toothbrush having radially arrayed bristles in a helical pattern.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 5, wherein, when any of the plurality of cleaning tips are secured onto the universal handle, a toothbrush is formed, the toothbrush being a powered toothbrush having omni-directional bristles which rotate around a longitudinal axis of the universal handle at a variable or constant or intermittent speed in either direction and/or which vibrate or reciprocate in a longitudinal direction.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 34, wherein the powered toothbrush is operably able to change rotational direction and/or speed and/or pattern or reciprocating amplitude or frequency in response to rotational and/or axial acceleration of the powered toothbrush caused by the user.

Claim 36. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 35, wherein the powered toothbrush is operably able to rotate a head of the powered toothbrush away from the gums for a number of degrees and then counter rotates the head for a lesser number of degrees.

Claim 37. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 36, wherein the universal handle has a graphic or grip pattern characterized by two or more randomly placed generally circular, elliptical or oblong shapes of various sizes connected by substantially straight lines.

Claim 38. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 21, wherein the universal handle further comprises a first half portion and a second half portion which are snapped together so as to form the universal handle, each of the first half portion and the second half portion having a male protruding ridge on one side and a female receiving slot on the other side which matingly engage the corresponding ridge and slot of the other half portion when snapped together.

Claim 39. (Currently amended) A tooth and gum cleaning kit for effecting oral cleaning comprising:

a series of two or more tooth and gum cleaning devices having various shaped cleaning end portions produced from , ~~the tooth and gum cleaning devices each further comprising~~ a foam cleaning member which is molded or bonded to a flexible sleeve, the flexible sleeve having an integrated finger loop which, when in use, is placed onto a caregiver's finger to provide for oral cleaning of infants and toddlers;

a universal toothbrush handle having a middle diameter dimensioned to be held by a child aged 1-4 years old;

a first plurality of cleaning tips dimensioned for older children aged 1-2 years old;

a second plurality of cleaning tips dimensioned for older children aged 2-3 years old , said second plurality of cleaning tips have at least one surface feature;

a third plurality of cleaning tips dimensioned for older children aged 3-4 years old, wherein said third plurality of cleaning tips have at least one surface feature that includes a bristle, any of the cleaning tips being detachably securable onto the universal toothbrush handle so as to form a toothbrush for effecting the oral cleaning; and

a portable case for carrying and storing the tooth and gum cleaning devices, the universal handle and the cleaning tips.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 39, wherein the series of two or more tooth and gum cleaning devices are designed for infants ages zero to one years old.

Claim 41. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 39, wherein the first plurality of cleaning tips are

designed for children ages one to two years old by having a smooth surface.

Claim 42. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 39, wherein the second plurality of cleaning tips are designed for children ages two to three years old by having a surface with a plurality of grooves.

Claim 43. (Currently amended) The kit of claim 39, wherein the third plurality of cleaning tips are designed for children ages three to four years old by having a surface with a plurality of bristles.

Claim 44. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 39, wherein the portable case further comprises molded cavities integrally formed therein for storage and containment of the two or more tooth and gum cleaning devices, the universal handle and any of the cleaning tips.

Claim 45. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 44, wherein the kit further comprises a compact disc with computer instructions, and a laminated instruction card, for directions as to proper use of the kit, the compact disc and the laminated instruction card being stored and contained in the portable case.

Claim 46. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 45, wherein the kit further comprises a tube of toothpaste.